Decline In foreign exchange reserve

† 2139. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserve is declining rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely effects of this decline on the economic scenario of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. India's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US $ 113 billion as at end-March 2004, increased to US $ 119.5 billion by end-June 2004 on account of substantial foreign exchange inflows. The foreign exchange reserves were estimated at US $ 119.3 billion on August 6,2004. During the period April 1,2004 to August 6,2004, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US $ 6.3 billion.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Externally aided projects for Tripura

2140. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many externally-aided projects are there in different States as sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) how many of them relate to the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether it is a fact that not a single EAP has been sanctioned for Tripura; and

(d) the proposals received from Government of Tripura and the action taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PAIANIMANICKAM): (a) the number of externally aided projects in different States as sectioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is furnished in Statement I. (see below).

(b) Six projects relate to the North-Eastern States.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.